

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir teaches a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement. Depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. Also, the game playing arrangement comprises a mechanical, symbol carrying arrangement. The symbol carrying arrangement comprises a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. Also, the display element comprises a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement with the display screen being a multi-layered structure. Further, the structure includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed and the monitor overlies a shutter mechanism. The shutter mechanism is an electronically controlled device that is controllable to vary between a transparent state, in which the game playing arrangement is visible through the device, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the game playing arrangement is at least partially occluded. A monitor housing defines a plurality of openings with one opening

being associated with each reel. A part of the outer periphery of each reel is visible through its associated opening. The electronically controlled device defines a plurality of zones with each zone, in use, overlying one of the reels. Each zone is controllable to vary between the transparent state, in which the associated reel is visible through that zone, and an at least partially opaque state, in which the reel is at least partially occluded.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for performing a predetermined display relating to a game result, a game value providing device for providing a game value advantageous to a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device and a display control device for executing display control of the game result display device. Claim 1 recites that the game result display device includes a first display device in a form of at least one reel operative to rotate about an axis of rotation, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from a front side thereof in a light-emitting direction with the second display device being in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and a third display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from the front side in the light-emitting direction with the third display device being in a form of another liquid crystal display panel, with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another and with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device.

Claim 1 recites that the second display device includes at least one transparent display area operative between a transparent condition for transparently displaying the display of the first display device through the second display device and a non-transparent condition and the third display device includes at least one display shielding unit for selectively shielding the display of the first display device with the at least one display shielding unit corresponding to the at least one transparent display area. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the at least one display shielding unit of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-

inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device regardless if the at least one transparent area of the second display device is in the transparent condition or the non-transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device via the third display device when the at least one transparent display area of the second display device is in the transparent condition. Claim 1 also recites that the second display device in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and the third display device in a form of a switch liquid crystal display panel. Further, claim 1 recites that the third display device has a third display device thickness extending in the light-emitting direction and the second display device and the third display device are a one-piece, unitary construction with the second display device and the third display device being in facial contact with each other. Also, claim 1 recites that the at least one display shielding unit has a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction and is embedded into the third display device with the display shielding unit thickness being less than the third display device thickness.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the third display device in a form of a switch liquid crystal display panel has a third display device thickness extending in a light-emitting direction and at least one display shielding unit having a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction with the display shielding unit thickness being less than the third display device thickness. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muir in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,416). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lee teaches a liquid crystal display device that has a light generating unit for generating a light. A light guiding plate guides the light to a display unit for displaying an image. A reflection plate is disposed under the light guiding plate for reflecting the light to the light guiding plate. A receiving container receives the reflection plate, the light guiding plate and the light generating unit. At least one boss is formed on a bottom of the receiving container for preventing the light generating unit from being moved by guiding a position of the light generating unit.

Claim 6, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for performing a predetermined display relating to a game result, a game value providing device for providing a game value advantageous to a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device and a display control device for executing display control of the game result display device. Claim 6 recites that the game result display device includes a first display device in a form of at least one reel operative to rotate about an axis of rotation, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from a front side thereof in a light-emitting direction with the second display device being in a form of a liquid crystal display panel, a third display device disposed in front of the first display device in the light-emitting direction when the gaming machine is viewed from the front side with the third display device being in a form of switch liquid crystal display panel with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device. Claim 6 recites that the second display device includes a liquid crystal panel, a reflecting plate having a first reflecting plate surface and an opposite second reflecting plate surface and a light guiding plate disposed between and in facial contact with the liquid crystal panel and the first reflecting plate surface. Also, claim 6 recites that the third display device

includes a switch liquid crystal panel and at least one display shielding unit embedded in the switch liquid crystal panel, the switch liquid panel having a third display device thickness extending in the light-emitting direction and having a non-transparent region except where the at least one display shielding unit is located, the third display device being in facial contact with the second reflecting plate surface.

Further, claim 6 recites that the second display device includes at least one transparent display area corresponding with the at least one display shielding unit and is operative between a transparent condition for transparently displaying the display of the first display device through the second display device and a non-transparent condition. Additionally, claim 6 recites that the at least one display shielding unit of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device in the transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device in the transparent condition via the third display device with the at least one display shielding unit having a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction, the display shielding unit thickness being less than the third display device thickness.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 6 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest recites that a third display device includes a switch liquid crystal panel and at least one display shielding unit embedded in the switch liquid crystal panel with the switch liquid panel having a first switch liquid crystal panel surface and an opposite second switch liquid crystal panel surface defining a switch liquid panel thickness therebetween. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the at least one display shielding unit has a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction with the at least one display

shielding unit having a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction and the display shielding unit thickness being less than the third display device thickness.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 7, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine comprising that includes a game result display device for performing a predetermined display relating to a game result, a game value providing device for providing a game value advantageous to a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device and a display control device for executing display control of the game result display device, a diffusion sheet; a light guiding plate and a reflecting plate. Claim 7 recites that the game result display device includes a first display device in a form of at least one reel operative to rotate about an axis of rotation, a second display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from a front side thereof in a light-emitting direction with the second display device being in a form of a liquid crystal display panel and a third display device disposed in front of the first display device when the gaming machine is viewed from the front side in the light-emitting direction with the third display device being in a form of a switch liquid crystal display panel with the second and third display device being facially opposed to one another with the third display device being disposed between the first and second display device. Claim 7 recites that the second display device includes a liquid crystal panel and the third display device includes a switch liquid crystal panel and at least one display shielding unit embedded in the switch liquid crystal panel with the switch liquid panel having a first switch liquid crystal panel surface and an opposite second switch liquid crystal panel surface defining a switch liquid panel thickness therebetween and a non-transparent region except where the at least one display shielding unit is located with the first

switch liquid crystal panel surface being in facial contact with the liquid crystal panel and with the at least one display shielding unit having a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction.

Furthermore, claim 7 recites that the switch liquid crystal panel is disposed between and in facial contact with the liquid crystal panel and the diffusion sheet, the light guiding plate is disposed between the diffusion sheet and the reflecting plate and the second display device includes at least one transparent display area corresponding with the at least one display shielding unit and is operative between a transparent condition for transparently displaying the display of the first display device through the second display device and a non-transparent condition. Additionally, claim 7 recites that the at least one display shielding unit of the third display device is controllably switched to either a view-inhibition state in which the display of the first display device is shielded to prevent or inhibit viewing of the first display device through the second display device in the transparent condition or a viewing state in which the display of the first display device is transparently displayed for viewing through the second display device in the transparent condition via the third display device and the display shielding unit thickness being less than the switch liquid panel thickness.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 7 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a third display device includes a switch liquid crystal panel and at least one display shielding unit embedded in the switch liquid crystal panel with the switch liquid panel having a first switch liquid crystal panel surface and an opposite second switch liquid crystal panel surface defining a switch liquid panel thickness therebetween in a light-emitting direction with the at least one display shielding unit having a display shielding unit thickness extending in the light-emitting direction. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or

suggest that the display shielding unit thickness is less than the switch liquid panel thickness.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable over the applied art.

Support for the newly-recited features is illustrated in Figures 5, 8 (b) and 9.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

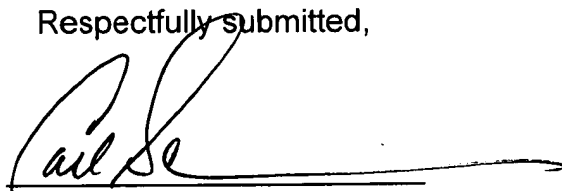
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 12, 2008

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